

SC AHEC

South Carolina AHEC Receives \$3.8 Million Grant to Expand Disaster Preparedness and Response Training

The catastrophic hurricanes of recent weeks have reinforced the need for coordinated responses from local communities during an emergency. Building on the success of the bioterrorism awareness training completed during the past two years, the South Carolina AHEC was successful in competing for a new three-year, \$3.8 million dollar grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to expand training to health professionals across South Carolina.

This grant continues work originally launched by the SC AHEC Bioterrorism and Public Health Emergency Network. During the first two years of the grant, awareness programs were attended by over 12,000 health professionals, students and first responders. Programs were offered to community practitioners, hospital workers, long term care and community health center personnel, and academic faculty and students.

"The first two years of training laid an excellent foundation by providing health care professionals with a very good understanding of the issues pertaining to public health emergencies", explains Dr. David Garr, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network's Principal Investigator and SC AHEC Executive Director. "The next three years will provide professionals with the skills they will need in the event their community is seriously impacted by an event."

With three new years of funding, comes a new focus for the program now known as the Disaster Preparedness and Response

Training Network (DPR Training Network). Emergency preparedness and response issues include all forms of terrorism, natural disasters and large scale accidents. The goal of this program is to provide the health care workforce with the knowledge, skills, abilities and core competencies to recognize indications of a terrorist event; meet the acute care needs of patients, including pediatric and other vulnerable populations; participate in a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to emergencies; and rapidly and effectively alert the public health system of such an event at the community, state, and national levels.

"Recent events have made it very clear that we must be prepared to respond to disasters that can wipe out critical infrastructure and leave local communities dependent solely on their own resources", states Beth Kennedy, the DPR Training Network Project Director.

"The DPR Training Network from the beginning has taught that local communities need to be prepared to address the emergency issues in their communities for at least the first 72 hours. We will continue to deliver this message during the next three years as we include local communities and elected officials in our training exercises."

Activities include providing regional and statewide training programs, educating rural hospitals about emergency incident command structures,

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serving vulnerable populations including children and the elderly, and serving high risk target areas including rural communities, ports/coastal areas, and nuclear/chemical facilities. Also included is the establishment of a Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network Resource Center.

"The Resource Center will permit us to help other new

grant recipients across the nation acquire information about what methods and approaches have worked when training health professionals", explains Dr. Garr. "They will benefit from our past two years of experience and therefore, should be able to develop their programs more quickly and effectively."

The DPR Training Network will also continue to expand and coordinate collaborations with partners including the South

Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the South Carolina Hospital Association, Trident Technical College and others to develop, deliver and evaluate programs aimed at meeting the training needs of South Carolina's health care professionals and communities.

For more information about DPR Training Network programs, visit www.scahec.net or contact Beth Kennedy at 843-792-4431.

SRMC Named Top Hospital by American Nurses Association

Spartanburg Regional Medical Center is the first hospital in South Carolina to be recognized as a national leader in nursing services by the American Nurses Association Credentialing Center. The Magnet Recognition Program recognizes quality patient care and nursing excellence, providing consumers with the ultimate benchmark to measure a hospital's quality of care. SRMC is one of only 188 hospitals to receive Magnet Recognition. The program began in 1983.

"Many facilities review the criteria, fewer complete the extensive application process, fewer still obtain an on-site survey. All who worked on this project, all who deliver excellent care, all who support those who care for our patients are to be congratulated," Ingo Angermeier, president and CEO, told employees. "You touch many lives deeply. You are recognized for the great care you deliver. I am very proud of what you have achieved. May God bless you all for your commitment to professionalism."

Health care organizations around the world are making use of the Magnet program concepts to continually assess and improve their processes for achieving quality in nursing and in patient outcomes. The Magnet designation is awarded by the ANCC Magnet Recognition Program if a health care organization has demonstrated it provides an environment of excellence for nursing practice and patient care. Research reflects that Magnet hospitals have better patient outcomes and higher levels of patient and nurse satisfaction than do non-Magnet hospitals.

"Health care organizations that employ professional nurses strive to achieve Magnet Recognition status, an honor that recognizes and rewards excellence in

clinical nursing practice. The Magnet Recognition Program focuses on promoting quality that supports professional practice, identifying excellence in the delivery of nursing services to patients and providing a mechanism for the dissemination of 'best practices' in nursing," said Brenda Kelly, chairman, ANCC Commission on Magnet Recognition.

The nursing staff at SRMC is responsible for the progressive care offered there, Chief Nursing Officer Cathi Whelchel said. "I am very proud of the progress we have made over the last few years. There are many initiatives and programs that support our Magnet status. The staff here are absolutely excellent and are thirsty for the pursuit of quality. Because of our Magnet journey, many initiatives have been accomplished," Whelchel said.

"This was a team effort", said Ava Pridemore, SRHS Magnet Project Coordinator. "Achieving Magnet designation is a culmination of over two years of work. This honors our dedication and commitment to excellent patient care and outcomes," said Pridemore.

Congratulations Spartanburg Regional Medical Center! Come hear about their journey to Magnet status at the "4th Annual South Carolina Magnet Conference: Exploring the Dimensions of Magnet" on April 27 - 28, 2006 in Greenville, South Carolina. Contact 843-792-4433 or faulcong@musc.edu for additional information.

Allendale on the Move

Emily Warren, LMSW, HPS Coordinator,
Lowcountry AHEC

Lowcountry AHEC and the Medical University of South Carolina Library, along with multiple community collaborators are working together with the people of Allendale County to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy community. Community members are finding out about health issues affecting them, their family, and their community. There are events and activities for everyone where community members can learn how to manage and prevent diseases.

For the last year, the *Allendale on the Move* steering committee has been busy designing events around the community's top health concerns including cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, HIV/AIDS and STD's. *Allendale on the Move* partnered with local community groups to present events beginning in April 2005. The kickoff was at the Allendale County Relay for Life. Some other events included the Community Baby Shower/Fair, National HIV Testing Day, Back to School with Healthy Learners, and Community Unity Weekend-Salk Walk.

Most recently, *Allendale on the Move* hosted a cancer awareness event entitled "What do I need to know about Breast and Prostate Cancer?" Dr. Sabra Slaughter, Chief of Staff to the President of the Medical University of South Carolina, was the keynote speaker. He discussed his personal experience, "I'm a survivor, so I can tell you!"

Other speakers included Dr. Kevin Brown of Low Country Health Care System, Inc., who discussed breast and prostate cancer and a representative from the American Cancer Society. The message was we all get more out of life when we are healthy, so let's get healthy together!

Allendale on the Move is funded by the National Library of Medicine under NLM Contract N01-LM-1-3521 with the New York Academy of Medicine Library. For more information on upcoming *Allendale on the Move* community health events visit www.AllendaleOnTheMove.org.



Certificate in Health Care Education Available Online

Mandy May, MUSC College of Nursing

It should come as no surprise that health care providers teach everyday. They teach patients, colleagues, students and families. A new continuing education program is now being offered at the MUSC College of Nursing to help all health care providers more effectively serve as educators.

Dr. Tara Hulsey, Associate Dean for Faculty and Associate Professor in the College of Nursing, has developed a new web-based curriculum for a Certificate in Health Care Education. This program is designed to provide health care professionals with an understanding of basic teaching principles, learner needs, teaching and learning evaluation methods, and effective approaches to web-based and web-enhanced teaching. This program consists of three web-based courses that are designed to be taken one per semester.

At the end of the course, graduates will be able to more effectively teach patients, families, students, and colleagues about health care needs and topics. Graduates will also be prepared to expand their roles as teaching faculty, as leaders in continuing education, and as providers of staff development programs. All health care professionals will be able to earn CEU's for the courses, and nurses will also be eligible to sit for a Nursing Education Certificate Exam that is currently being developed by the National League for Nurses. If you would like more information about this program, or would like to register, please visit: <http://www.musc.edu/nursing/continue/programs.htm>.

Three Courses in the Health Care Education Certificate Course

Instructional Processes in Nursing - focuses on the development of teaching methodologies to enhance learning outcomes of various populations.

Curriculum Development - emphasizes proper curriculum development for health-related courses and programs of study.

Methodologies of Online Teaching - introduces students to the emerging field of on-line education by giving the students the knowledge on how to create an online course, and how to effectively use online communication tools such as discussion boards and chat rooms.

Arthur “Cleve” Hutson, Jr., MD, Receives 2005 Halford Award

The 2005 James G. Halford, Jr., MD Award for Leadership in Humane Education was bestowed on Arthur “Cleve” Hutson, Jr., MD, on November 11, 2005 at the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

The Halford Award is presented to a Family Medicine physician faculty member in recognition of outstanding leadership in providing humane education. Award winners demonstrate a caring attitude and respect for patients, residents and students; value human dignity; and demonstrate a passion and joy in learning, working and playing with others.

Dr. Hutson embodies the attributes reflected in the criteria for the Halford Award. He is congenial, always willing to help others, and is a favorite teacher of students, residents, and a mentor for faculty. He has truly been a major contributor to the evolution of family medicine in South Carolina. Modest to a fault, he hasn't sought the limelight, but he is truly deserving of it.

Dr. Hutson has been a member of the faculty in the Medical University of South Carolina, Department of Family Medicine since 1971. Prior to joining the MUSC faculty, he was a busy family doctor in Beaufort, South Carolina. There he was not only an excellent doctor for his patients, but he played a significant role in the medical community in Beaufort and was a leader both locally and at a regional and statewide level.

In addition to being one of the first faculty members in the Department of Family Medicine, Dr. Hutson was a charter member of the American Board of Family Medicine in 1971. After joining the MUSC faculty, he directed the MEDEX Program which evolved into the present Physician Assistant Program. He has been the South Carolina AHEC Executive Director, an Associate Dean in the College of Medicine and the Director of Graduate and Medical Student Education in the Department of Family Medicine. He has also been the Medical Director of Charleston Memorial Hospital

and served as the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine.

Today, Dr. Hutson continues to serve on the faculty at the MUSC Department of Family Medicine and serves as a South Carolina AHEC locum tenens physician for many doctors throughout the state. Dr. Hutson has indeed been one of the most sought after locum tenens providers in South Carolina and receives rave reviews from the patients and staff in the offices where he provides care.

Dr. Hutson's colleagues had impressive words of praise when nominating him for this award:



Dr. Hutson Accepts Award at South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians Annual Meeting

“Throughout his entire professional career, Dr. Hutson has always demonstrated the utmost value for human dignity and epitomizes the humane qualities indicative of the recipient of this prestigious award. His embracing personality and positive attitude have influenced the careers of many health care professionals in various disciplines. He is a respected mentor and teacher, using his knowledge and experience to provide insightful guidance to students, residents and colleagues.”

“Cleve continues to enjoy his work and brings a spirit of discovery to every day that he works with students and patients. Not long ago at a retirement dinner for another faculty member, Cleve came in late because he had been serving as the locum tenens physician for a family doctor out on one of the Sea Islands. He was bubbling with excitement and whispered to me that he had just come from having a great day which included removing a fish hook from the hand of one grateful tourist.”

Congratulations to Dr. Cleve Hutson, Jr., 2005 James G. Halford, Jr. Award winner!

Multi-Professional Partners Dedicated to Improved Outcomes for Critically Ill Patients

Ann V. Griffith, BS, CHES, CE
Coordinator, Upstate AHEC

Upstate Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Self Regional Medical Center, and the Montgomery Center for Family Medicine are in agreement with the Society of Critical Care Medicine's statement that knowledge of critical care principles may serve as prevention of patient morbidity and mortality from underlying disease and iatrogenic causes. Due to the concern for prevention measures and the relevance of the use of best practices within critical care delivery units, these three players have begun working toward addressing these unique issues.

Upstate AHEC is a licensed provider of the Fundamentals of Critical Care Support (FCCS) course through the Society of Critical Care Medicine, and has partnered with Self Regional Medical Center and the Montgomery Family Practice for faculty to provide this specialized training. These partners presented their first FCCS course in February 2005. The two-day, comprehensive course is a standard curriculum that provides instruction on the initial management of the critically ill patient while awaiting critical care expertise. This includes extended care related to mechanical ventilation, hemodynamic monitoring, organ hypoperfusion, neurological support and other content related to the critically ill patient.

According to Dr. David Sealy, Director of Resident Education and Sports Medicine with Self Regional Healthcare's Family Medicine Residency Training Program, the FCCS course has been added to the curriculum for their first and second year medical residents. John Paguntalan, Critical Nurse Specialist and certified FCCS faculty member, states, "It provides nurses a holistic

view of the critical care practice and reinforces the knowledge of evidence-based practice."

Gail Waldrop, ACNP-C and Course Director for FCCS, reports that a major component of the course is the multidisciplinary design which is extremely helpful in promoting the team concept of managing the critically ill patient regardless of the clinical setting. The skills stations in particular provide for dialogue among all levels of caregivers including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses and respiratory therapists. This dialogue allows for an understanding of each individual's role in providing care and their role in improving outcomes for critically ill patients.

Martha Huddelson, Respiratory Care Educator for Self Regional Medical Center and FCCS faculty member, says respiratory care personnel are important players on the critical care team. She states, "The registered respiratory

therapist can provide insight into the mechanical ventilation aspects of the course in both the lectures and the skill stations. This allows all practitioners that normally don't touch the machines or work with them often, the chance to get acquainted with respiratory equipment that is

used in the critical care setting."

FCCS is designed to teach non-intensivist healthcare providers the basic principles and essential clinical skills for the acute care of the critically ill or injured patient.

The multi-professional partners are dedicated to improved outcomes for their critically

ill patients and demonstrate their dedication by sponsoring the FCCS course. The course covers principles required for the first 24 hours of critical care and compliments the Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) instruction. FCCS is designed to teach non-intensivist health care providers the basic principles and essential clinical skills for the acute care of the critically ill or injured patient.

Upstate AHEC provides continuing education units for the FCCS course which includes about 18 contact hours for nurses and 15 continuing education hours for respiratory care personnel. The FCCS Committee is working with the Montgomery Center for Family Medicine to provide future courses with CME credits for physicians and nurse practitioners.

If you are interested in additional information, contact Ann Griffith at 864-349-1164.

Highlights of Women in Medicine

Cynthia Gilster, HPS Coordinator, Upstate AHEC

The American Medical Association has declared September to be Women in Medicine month. Upstate AHEC celebrates this month by recognizing doctors Karen Ardis and Lori Carnsew of Liberty Family Care in Liberty, SC.

"The physicians at this practice impressed me as perfect examples of today's female medical professionals", said Cynthia Gilster, Upstate AHEC Health Professions Student Coordinator. "What makes these physicians unique is that not only is this an all female practice, but they do a great job of juggling the roles of physician, mother, wife, and community leader while finding time to develop their own personal interests."



Dr. Karen Ardis

Before coming to Liberty in 1994, Dr. Ardis attended the University of Maryland where she received a Bachelors degree in Zoology. After graduation she was a legal assistant for seven years before attending Howard University School of Medicine. Howard University was considered a trendsetting school at that time because fifty percent of their medical students were female. Dr. Ardis was attracted to the medical field because she likes working with families from the parent, child and even grandparent perspective. While balancing her career and family, Dr. Ardis is also pursuing a Masters degree in English Literature at Clemson University.

When asked what she would suggest to women trying to balance so many life roles, she responded, "Remember your priorities, realize we can't fix everyone's problems, and know that sometimes it is necessary to delegate."

Prior to joining Liberty Family Care in 2000, Dr. Carnsew was a Durability Engineer with General Motors in Michigan for three years. One day she realized her true passion was in medicine, not engineering. After attending Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, she chose Family Medicine as her specialty and did her residency at Greenville Hospital System. Dr. Carnsew and her husband Tobias Vogel, office manager at the clinic, have three small children ages seven, four and two.



Dr. Lorir Carnsew

When asked what advice she would offer to woman considering a career in medicine she said, "Make sure your heart is in it completely because the sacrifices will be many". Dr. Carnsew's biggest challenge is fitting in quality time with her family and adequate time to exercise.

Over the last several years, Drs. Ardis and Carnsew have provided training for third-year medical students from the Medical University of South Carolina.

"Students who have the opportunity to do their eight week Family Medicine/Rural Clerkship rotation at Liberty Family Care rate these physicians as excellent preceptors and mentors", explained Cynthia Gilster. A recent medical student wrote on their evaluation, "This was the best learning experience I've had since beginning medical school. The doctors at Liberty Family Care have been outstanding role models and shown me how women in medicine can have it all!"

While these doctors find it difficult to do a "balancing act" between all their roles, they encourage young women to pursue their dreams.

"It is possible to do if you have the passion and drive to reach your goals", said Dr. Carnsew. "The benefits outweigh any sacrifices I've encountered."

Coalitions Shift into Gear Across Regions of South Carolina

Angelica Williams, Director, SDDP Program,
South Carolina AHEC

November 2005 witnessed the fruition of months of preparation with the statewide launch of a regional coalition building initiative.

During the *Increasing Minorities in Health Care Summit* in 2004, the need to increase partnerships to address the duplication of effort and the decrease in resources available for student development programs in South Carolina was identified as the highest priority. The concept of building partnerships through regionally-based coalitions was proposed to address the barriers facing members of ethnic minority and disadvantaged groups seeking to enter the health professions pipeline. The South Carolina AHEC accepted the role of facilitator in the formation of these coalitions.

With a grant from the Duke Endowment to support this initiative, the Student Development and Diversity Program coordinators fueled the drive to identify various organizations that needed to be at the discussion table. These organizations included hospitals, educational, business/industry, government, faith-based, and grass roots organizations. The goal of the coalitions is to identify and determine how to collaboratively address barriers that deter members of the target populations from entering the health professions pipeline. Successful meetings were held across the state during the month of November, serving as the kick-off of what may prove to be a model for other states. The Duke Endowment grant will assist in expanding the coalitions beyond this brain trust stage to become self-sustaining groups that are fully collaborative and active in addressing these identified goals.

For more information regarding the coalition initiative, contact Angelica Williams at 843-792-4432.

Seven Sit for Pharmacy Technician Certification Board Exam

Angel Clark, SDDP Coordinator, Mid-Carolina AHEC

Early on Saturday, November 19, 2005, members of the Mid-Carolina AHEC Chapter of the South Carolina AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals began to arrive on the campus of USC to take the next step towards becoming practicing health professionals. On this day, the Professional Examination Service was administering the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) exam. For seven undergraduate students who participated in the Mid-Carolina AHEC summer enrichment program, the test brought them one step closer to entering the field of pharmacy as a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT).

Angel Clark, SDDP Coordinator for Mid-Carolina AHEC, facilitated the Pharmacy Technician Training Program course developed by *PassAssured* as a component of the summer program. The web-based course involves over seven hours of audio, complemented with coaching video clips and blends over 2500 images into a riveting multimedia learning experience that places the student in a

real-world training environment. Utilizing an “earned” step approach to learning, students are rewarded for success by gaining access to higher levels of testing. The testing system is designed to enhance retention levels towards the ultimate goal of preparing students for the PTCB. Students were required to complete the course with an average of 90 in order to be sponsored by Mid-Carolina AHEC to sit for the three-hour PTCB exam.

The nationally recognized designation of CPhT strongly supports the positive interaction of the pharmacist/technician team towards safe and effective patient care. PTCB anticipates the mailing of test scores toward the end of December.

The South Carolina AHEC system commends Mid-Carolina AHEC students Jason Williams, Justin Warren, Chanel Jones, Monique Clyburn, Whitney Shell, Gayle Rivers and Felicia Harris for their initiative and aptitude demonstrated towards professional growth.



Health Professional Career Profile

PHARMACIST

Pharmacists are health care professionals trained as experts in the medicines used to treat or prevent disease. Practicing in a variety of settings, they work with physicians and other health care providers to assure that their patients receive the correct medication, at the appropriate dosage, and in the safest combinations. In the community pharmacies, pharmacists are the most accessible health professionals, providing therapeutic recommendations and education to patients for treatment with prescription and over-the-counter medications. In the hospital and nursing home settings, pharmacists also ensure that the patients receive the correct medications at the correct time.

Areas of Practice

The following is an abbreviated list of potential career paths in pharmacy:

- Community pharmacy (independent & chain)
- Consultant pharmacy
- Hospital pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Industry (research or sales)
- Regulatory & law enforcement

Educational Preparation

Students interested in becoming pharmacists should take college preparatory courses in high school, with an emphasis in mathematics and science, as determined by your counselor. To become licensed to

practice pharmacy, one must graduate from a school or college of pharmacy that is accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education. The Doctor of Pharmacy degree program is designed to be completed in a minimum of six years. This usually involves completing the pre-pharmacy requirements over a two year period and applying to the professional curriculum which encompasses four years.

Licensure, Certification and Registration

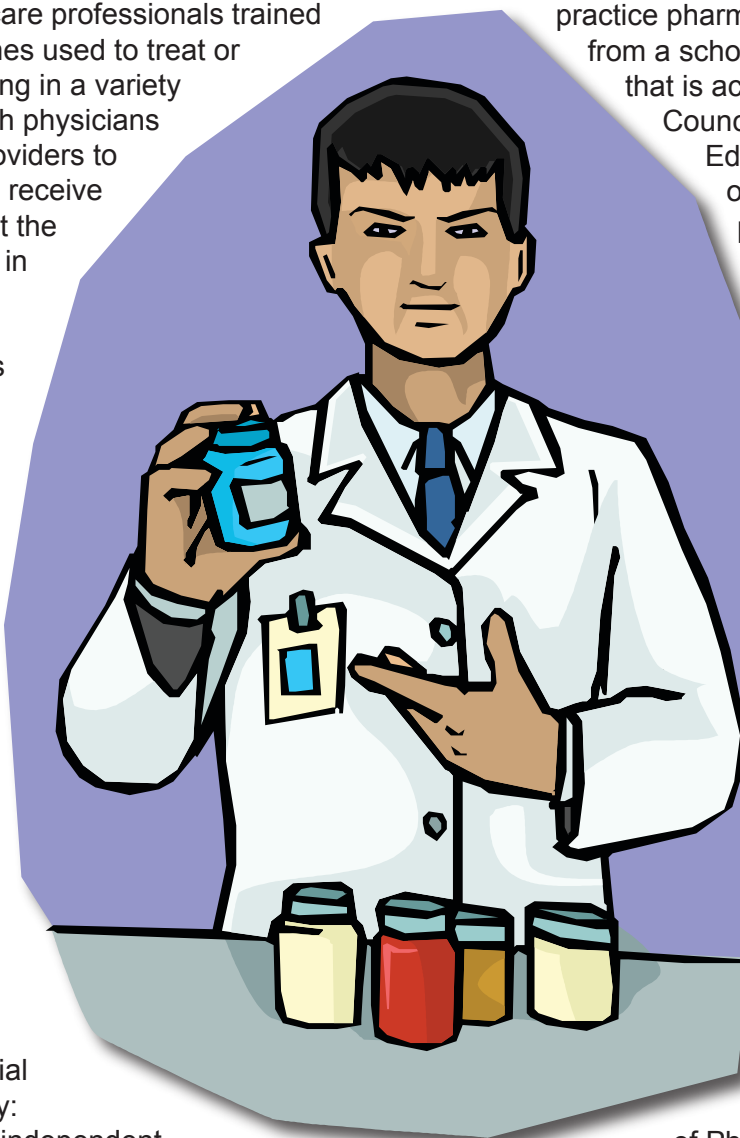
In order to become licensed, a pharmacist must pass an examination by the State Board of Pharmacy.

Educational Programs

South Carolina College of Pharmacy: Medical University of South Carolina Campus, Charleston & University of South Carolina Campus, Columbia

Professional Organizations

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, 1426 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, www.aacp.org • American College of Clinical Pharmacy, 3101 Broadway, Suite 380, Kansas City, MO 64111, www.accpl.org • American Council on Pharmaceutical Education, 20 North Clark Street,



Suite 2500, Chicago, IL 60602, www.acpe-accredit.org • American Pharmaceutical Association, 2215 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20037, www.aphanet.org • American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists, 7272 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814, www.ashp.org • The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, 1100 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington,

DC 20005, www.phrma.org • South Carolina Board of Pharmacy, 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210, www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Pharmacy • South Carolina Pharmacy Association, 1350 Browning Road, Columbia, SC 29210, www.scrx.org • South Carolina Society of Health Systems Pharmacists, Post Office Box 1874, Irmo, SC 29063, www.scsph.com

Dispensing Care Over the Counter

Traci Kirk begins her work day greeting customers. As a pharmacist in Lancaster, she finds this aspect of her job the most rewarding, and consciously makes an effort to inquire about the customer's life beyond their medication needs.

As a middle school student, Traci thought about becoming a dentist, but during her 7th grade year she decided to become a pharmacist. She became involved in the Mid-Carolina AHEC health career exploration program at the local hospital as a 9th grader at Lancaster High School, and her commitment was solidified. Traci participated in the monthly activities that included professional networking and facility tour opportunities. Her summers were spent interning through the regional AHEC program and working in the areas of physical therapy, health administration and the hospital pharmacy. She recalls being advised by the regional Student Development and Diversity Program coordinator and representatives from the MUSC College of Pharmacy to develop an academic plan that would best achieve her goal of becoming a pharmacist. She stuck with that plan, and it worked.

Upon graduation from high school in 1989, Traci enrolled in Francis Marion University where she completed the educational requirements for admission to pharmacy school. Her application to the MUSC College of Pharmacy was accepted, and she enrolled in 1991. While completing her first year of pharmacy training, Traci felt the challenges of being so far away from home. Despite the sense of "starting over"

with school, she began to feel herself maturing into an adult and was never discouraged.

Traci's clinical experiences provided her with insight into both the hospital and retail sides of pharmacy. It was during a memorable clinical rotation through a small, family run pharmacy that she found a niche in retail. She learned that she valued the ability to develop an ongoing relationship with patients that can be nurtured. Traci recognized that due to the constant patient turnover that occurs in a hospital setting, it is difficult to establish this type of connection. She honed her people skills, which she says is a soft-skill set that cannot be learned through a book or classroom lecture.

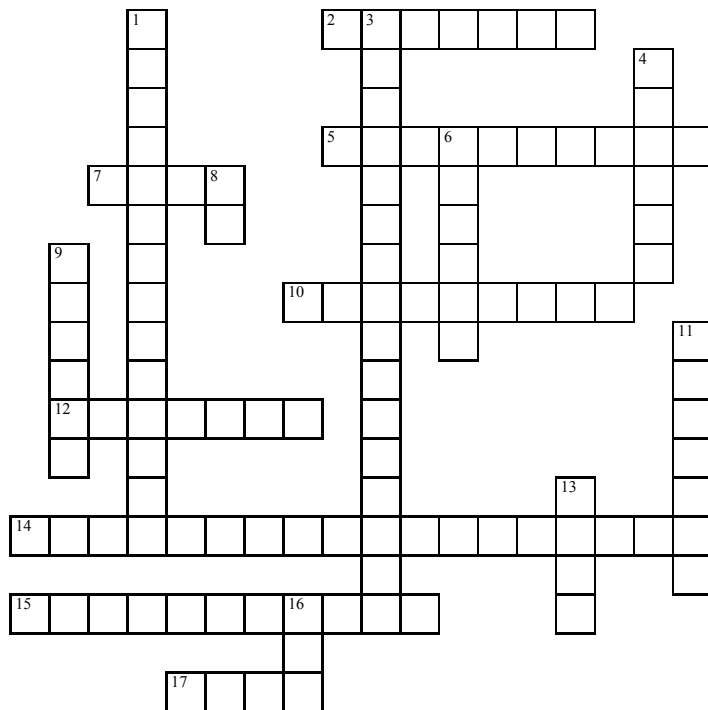
Today, Traci enjoys the openness of working in retail pharmacy. Despite the challenges of shift changes and the fast pace of retail, she is able to connect with patients at a personal level. She is sometimes reminded by customers that they "remember when she was a little girl," and that they have watched her "grow up". Traci is awed that she now fills prescriptions for a second generation of patients after having worked in the same pharmacy since 1994. She encourages students who are currently exploring career paths, or are already in the health professions pipeline to "stick with it, be determined and make it happen. If the door seems difficult to open, be persistent and eventually it will open."

Traci McIlwain Kirk invites members of the South Carolina AHEC Association of Future Health Professionals who are interested in pharmacy to email her at tramac@comporium.net.



NeuroBlast!

Welcome to NeuroBlast!, an activity designed to improve the reader's knowledge of health careers. This edition of NeuroBlast! will assist you in testing your knowledge about terminology associated with pharmacy. Test your knowledge and challenge your friends. Answers can be found at **WWW.SCAHEC.NET**.



ACROSS

- 2 Free from Bacteria
- 5 Expert in Medicines Used to Treat or Prevent Disease
- 7 Pharmacy Tech Certification Exam
- 10 Pharmacist Profiled in Career Spotlight
- 12 Provide Oversight
- 14 Works Under the Direct Supervision of Licensed Pharmacist
- 15 On-line Interactive Pharmacy Technician Training Program
- 17 Charleston Campus of Pharmacy Training Program

DOWN

- 1 Non-prescription Medications
- 3 Location of Traditional Pharmacy Tech Training Programs
- 4 Medication Amount
- 6 Community Based Pharmacy
- 8 4-Year Pharmacy Degree Program
- 9 6-Year Pharmacy Degree Program
- 11 Receives Medications, Education and Recommendations
- 13 Pharmacy Program Accreditation Body
- 16 Columbia Campus of Pharmacy Training Program

Colleton Medical Hosts Clemson University's Saturday College

Tavy Smalls, SDDP Coordinator, Lowcountry AHEC

Through on-going collaborations between Upstate AHEC's Student Development and Diversity Program and Clemson University, Clemson has expanded its Saturday College to include activities at Colleton Medical Center in Walterboro, SC. Clemson's ACUMEN Project (Academic Collaboration for Underrepresented Minority Enrollment in Nursing) concentrates on placing more minorities in its nursing program. Along with the fact that an increasing number of Clemson students are from the Lowcountry area, it is advantageous for Clemson to have planned programs in the Lowcountry area for nursing-minded students.

On October 1, 2005, at the Colleton Medical Center, the Clemson faculty introduced Lowcountry AHEC students to basic principles in nursing. Linda Gilbert, the Project ACUMEN Coordinator, welcomed 17 students and introduced a video highlighting nursing. This video showed nurses in many different settings and at different levels. Saturday College students had their horizons broadened when it became apparent how many opportunities were available.

Child Abuse Prevention & Education

Cynthia Gilster, HPS Coordinator, Upstate AHEC

In observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month, third year MUSC medical student Claudia Kristi Vissage addressed teachers at Walhalla Middle School for an in-service on October 4th. Sixty teachers and administrators attended Kristi's presentation entitled, "Recognizing Signs of Child Abuse: A Guideline for Teachers".

"As part of the Family Medicine/Rural Clerkship curriculum, students assess the community's needs, select a topic, collect data and develop a presentation", said Cynthia Gilster, Upstate AHEC coordinator. "Kristi chose a very important yet a very difficult subject for her project."



Tim Galbreath, from the Clemson University Office of Admissions, updated the students on admissions policies and procedures. Mr. Galbreath also allowed participating students to apply to Clemson University without an application fee. Along with admissions information, Lowcountry AHEC students were also introduced to the new SAT. Amy Roberts, a Kaplan SAT Review Representative, gave the students a short introduction to the SAT.

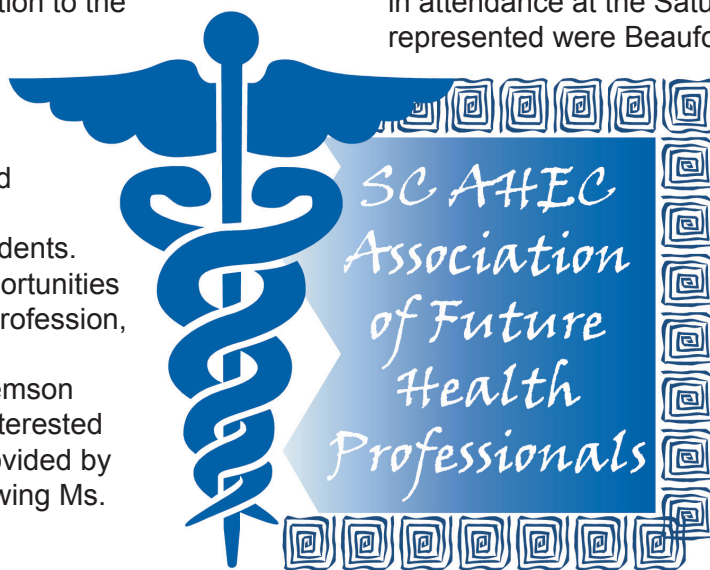
Holisa Wharton, a nursing instructor at Clemson and a registered nurse, discussed nursing perspectives with the students. She spoke about the opportunities afforded by the nursing profession, growth opportunities, job satisfaction, and how Clemson University could assist interested students. Lunch was provided by Clemson University following Ms. Wharton's presentation.

In the afternoon, the students were briefed by nurses on staff at Colleton Medical Center. Students were able to speak with the nurses as the nurses did hands-on activities with

the students. Students were able to take blood pressures, do blood-sugar checks, and even give mock injections into oranges. This hands-on portion was a favorite among the students. Clemson then conducted a question and answer segment prior to adjourning.

Students from four Lowcountry high schools were in attendance at the Saturday College. Schools represented were Beaufort High School (Beaufort County), Colleton County High School, Jasper County High School, and Wade Hampton High School (Hampton County). On December 10, 2005, Clemson will return to Colleton Medical Center for Part II of the Saturday College Program. The Saturday College in December will be more detailed and involved, which should make for an exciting experience.

Thanks to the staff of Clemson University's project ACUMEN for a great program!



In South Carolina, public school teachers are required by law to notify the appropriate professional within their school if they suspect that a student is a victim of child abuse. School guidance counselors often are called upon to deal with the cases.

"Unfortunately, child abuse is not always a simple thing to recognize", explains Ms. Vissage. "Many victims and perpetrators become experts at hiding domestic abuse. There are quite a few conditions and injuries that can raise concerns of domestic violence but turn out to be completely benign. While teachers understand the importance of recognizing abuse and arranging the appropriate intervention, it can be an intimidating responsibility".

During the in-service, Ms. Vissage focused on giving teachers the tools they need to feel confident in their ability to distinguish child abuse from other, more benign, conditions or injuries. She surveyed teachers before and after the presentation regarding their perceived knowledge and understanding of signs of child abuse.

"We appreciate Kristi helping us learn more about how we can help and support the children we see everyday", stated Ms. Dianne England, principal of Walhalla Middle School.

Teachers were treated to refreshments donated by Upstate AHEC, Zaxby's, and Subway. Two teachers also received gift certificates donated by Fatz Café.



A Statewide, Competency-Based, Pharmacotherapy Curriculum for Residents

In Their Own Words

In 2001, the PharmDs in the South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residency Training Programs met to discuss creating a statewide, competency-based pharmacotherapy curriculum for our residents. The initial goal was to develop an on-line resource that would accompany our current teaching and rotations. We quickly saw that this resource would also be a great tool to help the programs implement and evaluate the ACGME core competencies, specifically medical knowledge. Our specific objective was to provide a standardized tool to evaluate and document residents' pharmacotherapy knowledge, in an effort to ensure a minimum level of competency in rational drug therapy. With financial support and encouragement from the South Carolina AHEC and the Family Medicine Program Directors, the project was launched.

Several steps were taken to develop this curriculum. First, we met with education experts to enhance our skills in writing competencies, multiple-choice questions, and in creating evaluation tools. We were introduced to Web-CT, as a program that could house the online curriculum. Web-CT is available to all family medicine residents in the state through funding from the South Carolina AHEC. We then chose 46 topics to include based on existing core curriculum and assigned each topic to the PharmD with a special interest in the given subject. All topics were peer-reviewed by the PharmD group and by one of the program's faculty, Dan Sontheimer, MD, from Spartanburg. We have been meeting twice a year to complete the modules and keep them updated as new evidence is published.

The curriculum is being utilized in various ways in each of the residency programs. For example,

some topics are assigned to specific rotations or electives and must be completed as a requirement for that rotation. Some programs assign a set number of topics per month to be completed, based on a longitudinal curriculum. Others use the topics and quizzes for group-learning activities, such as rounds and noon conferences. Residents are asked to review the medical knowledge core competency and the suggested readings and then take the corresponding quiz. At the end of the quiz, residents are provided with detailed feedback about the correct and incorrect answers for each question. We've also created a standardized evaluation tool and are tracking utilization of the curriculum and resident performance on each of the modules using the features of Web-CT.

The curriculum has gained national attention, being presented in poster format at the 2002 meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and as a lecture discussion at the 2003 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine meeting. We are currently working on a manuscript for publication, reporting on the curriculum and its utilization. Our future goal is to incorporate the core competency of practice-based learning and improvement, in which residents would evaluate their practice with each module.

This has been a great experience for all of us. We've enjoyed the collaboration, sharing our strengths and resources, helping to achieve the ACGME goals, and experiencing some unique faculty development.

Adrienne Ables, Sandra Counts, Lori Dickerson, Kelly Jones, and Sharm Steadman are PharmD faculty members practicing in South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residency Training Programs across the state.

SCRIPT Retreat Planned for January 13-14, 2006

Lowcountry Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is pleased to sponsor a special retreat built around our unique summer interdisciplinary training program, the South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training (SCRIPT). Sessions will include an orientation for new SCRIPT retreat participants, managing the challenges of SCRIPT roles, and rural health disparities. Dr. Amy Brock Martin will serve as our facilitator. Sessions will address SCRIPT assessment, overcoming obstacles and challenges, and incorporating health disparity initiatives into SCRIPT training. For more information about the SCRIPT program, contact Lowcountry AHEC at 803-943-5052 or visit www.lcahec.com.



Primary Care: A Med Student's Experience

Note: National Primary Care Week activities were held on the Medical University of South Carolina campus from October 17-21, 2005. Rachel Rosansky wrote this piece about her experience as a 2nd year medical student who helped coordinate the MUSC events.

Health professional school can be an “every discipline for itself” place. Clearly there are numerous wonderful things about studying to be a health professional. There are also challenges. My health professional education may be preparing me to interact with my patients and fellow members of my own profession, mostly in clinical situations, but that education is not inherently preparing me to fulfill my role as an integrated member of a health professional team, or as a critical advocate for the health of a community. That is the reason that opportunities like National Primary Care Week (NPCW) seem so important and valuable to me. Aside from its purpose of highlighting the importance of primary care and promoting an increase in the number of students who will pursue primary care careers, being involved in NPCW helps prepare me to fill other roles that will be so integral to the quality of the health professional I become.

This year, even more than in past years, planning NPCW gave me the opportunity to interact on a professional basis with students from several of the other colleges at MUSC. As members of the NPCW planning committee, we experienced collaboration as an interdisciplinary team and were able to make our events applicable and interesting across discipline lines. We were able to represent our fellow classmates/ professionals in the experience of collaborative decision-making for the benefit of our university “community”.



Several of the speakers featured during the week's events highlighted the issues surrounding working in interdisciplinary care teams. Dr. Sam Stone shared some very interesting and often humorous insights about the value of well-coordinated interdisciplinary care, as did Marsha Delavan, PA-C, who also spoke about the experience of being a PA and working as an independent caregiver in rural communities. Dr. Stone had many insights about being a good citizen and member of a community in which you work as a health professional, and not just treating each individual patient outside of the context of the needs of their community.

All the students who participated in NPCW events this year gained some experience and knowledge about being a community advocate, partially through participation in service projects such as a book drive and the Race for the Cure for breast cancer awareness, and partially through the talks given by excellent guest speakers.

The speakers did a wonderful service to the students by providing information that will help us be more well-rounded practitioners in our own disciplines. Dr. Allan Rashford spoke about merging holistic and traditional medicine, something that our patients are probably already doing and that we need to know much more about. Karen Rankine, MSN, RN, and Jason Roberson, MS, spoke about the issue of health literacy. They gave specific tips on how health professionals can be more aware of and cater to the health literacy levels and needs of their patients instead of simply their clinical needs to improve outcomes in patient care and patient satisfaction.

Planning and participating in National Primary Care Week events is like coming up for a breath of fresh, real-life air, after being in the somewhat artificial little world of a student's book-engrossed life most of the time. NPCW consistently provides opportunities for broadening and improving my potential as a future health professional and it provides the same opportunities for all students who participate.

Evaluator Helps Ensure Network's Success

Yvonne Michel, PhD, has been working as Evaluator for the Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network from the development of the first grant application. Evaluation is often viewed as an afterthought and only necessary for compliance reporting to the funding agency. But, in Dr. Michel's experience, it is a powerful tool that makes it possible to strive for and achieve excellence.

Dr. Michel is a faculty member in the College of Nursing at MUSC. She also serves as an evaluation consultant for the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Energy Office, and has assisted the South Carolina AHEC with a variety of evaluation projects.

During the first two years of the Network's training, she used end-of-session evaluation surveys to gauge participant reactions and learning. This immediate feedback was useful as participants provided suggestions on how programs could be enhanced. They also gave high praise to the organization and content of the materials that were

developed and the facilitators that were trained to deliver the content. In fact, their comments repeatedly asked for MORE!

Participants wanted more in-depth knowledge on chemical and biological agents, more hands-on learning activities, and the opportunity to go through a focused, simulated drill of a disaster close to home. Through her evaluation and analysis, the Network was also able to identify health care professionals who needed targeted materials and non-traditional delivery methods.

Dr. Michel continued evaluating the program as the training concluded at the end of the second year by phoning past participants and asking their impressions of the training they attended. The majority of the respondents reported that the largest impact of the training was their increased awareness of the threat of public health disasters and the responsibility



Dr. Michel Crunches Data

of health professionals to provide safe, immediate, appropriate care for victims. Again, they called for MORE!

This feedback was at the core of the development of the second phase of the project. More detailed information has been incorporated into exercises and drills that will be conducted over the next three years.

Scenarios will focus on nearby communities, real threats, and specific necessary actions.

Dr. Michel recommends that all health professionals extend the evaluation process to themselves. Do you have water and non-perishable food stored in your car and home? Do you have a first aid kit with spare prescription drugs? Do you know how to contact family in case of interrupted phone service? If you are unsure about what you do to prepare, go to www.redcross.org.

As for the Disaster Preparedness and Response Training Network, the evaluation process continues and Dr. Michel will make sure success is sustained.



AN ONLINE COURSE FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Many health care providers have expressed a willingness to respond to terrorist threats or public health emergencies, but few have received training,

particularly those working in community settings. This case-based course captures the insight, experiences, and opinions of public health authorities and emergency preparedness experts throughout South Carolina.

The discussions and links to relevant material on the internet focus on the responsibilities, liabilities and opportunities for community-based health care providers who could find themselves face-to-face with either a first hand emergency (mass

casualty or biological threat) or the need to make a decision regarding accepting a role as a health care volunteer during a public health emergency.

Prerequisites & Cost: None

Credits: CME Credits Available

Delivery: Via Internet

Required Equipment & Software:

* Access to the Internet. Participants are encouraged to use a high-speed connection.

* Windows Media Player 9 or above

* Adobe Acrobat Reader 6 or above

Enroll: www.scahec.net (Click on shield for DPR Training Network)

Like a Rolling Stone, Practitioner Returns to Share Experience

Participants at this year's National Primary Care Week activities at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) were treated to a dynamic presentation by Sam Stone, MD, from Chester, SC. Dr. Stone's presentation, "Caring for a Small Town Community" provided students with a first-hand account of the complex experiences available to a small town physician.

For over twenty years, he has been an integral part of his community and the doors of his practice have extended out past the local ball fields and shopping malls. Dr. Stone's experience as a family physician brought him back to MUSC to share his knowledge with students at his Alma Mater. His advice was unabashed. "As a physician, you are the captain of a ship, not the director", he stated. "Medicine is a team approach".

He encouraged the future practitioners to communicate with everyone involved in the life of the patient and stressed that physicians must "take care of the family in order to take care of the patient". He also poked holes in several myths associated with family medicine and rural communities.

Myth: Family Medicine is not worth the money.

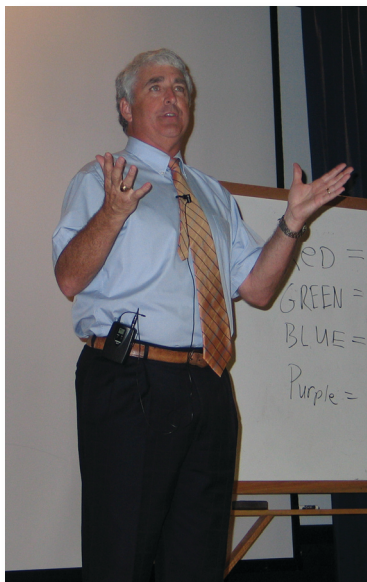
Dr. Stone's Experience: In some ways this can be true, but he earns more than he needs and less than he wants. Dr. Stone stressed keeping your wants close to your needs.

Myth: Family physicians have to do it all.

Dr. Stone's Experience: In truth, the physician cannot do it all. They are members of a team.

Myth: Family physicians have to give up practicing real medicine.

Dr. Stone's Experience: Not in his practice. They have an onsite MRI machine and a Nuclear Tech. You have to keep up and keep learning.



Dr. Stone Speaks at National Primary Care Week Activities

Dr. Stone is a graduate of Clemson University and the Medical University of South Carolina. He completed his residency training at the Anderson Family Medicine Residency Program under the guidance of his mentor, Dr. James Halford, Jr. Upon his residency graduation, he remained as a faculty member in the program for a year and then moved back to his hometown of rural Chester, SC. At that time, Dr. Stone became one of the original South Carolina AHEC Rural Physician Program State Incentive Grant recipients in 1991. He continues to practice in Chester to this day.

He currently serves as the Past President of the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Stone is a mentor for medical students and actively participates in the MUSC College of Medicine's Family Medicine/Rural Clerkship. He also participates in the Family Health Foundation's Student Preceptorship Program and allows students to shadow him during their summer break.

Dr. Stone has an extensive background in civic service and advocacy. He has organized a free medical clinic in his community, is a member of the Rotary Club, serves as an elder in his church and has served on the Red Cross Board of Directors. He and his wife Beverly have two sons, Marcus and Peter.

Upcoming South Carolina AHEC Events

March 20-21, 2005

South Carolina AHEC Annual Meeting,
Landmark Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC

April 26, 2005

3rd Annual Workshop for Nurse Aide Training
Coordinators & Instructors, Columbia, SC

April 28, 2005

4th Annual South Carolina Magnet Conference:
Exploring the Dimensions of Magnet, Greenville, SC

Program and registration information will be posted at www.scahec.net as it becomes available.



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CALL FOR ARTICLES

The editorial staff of "SC AHEC Connects" welcomes the submission of articles, success stories, upcoming events and news for the Spring Edition.

Please forward information, articles and photos to Ragan DuBose-Morris at duboser@musc.edu.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS
February 1, 2006!

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